

1-1 By: Clardy, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Seliger) H.B. No. 3662
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2013;
 1-3 May 8, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Education; May 17, 2013, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-5 Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 17, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the Texas Workforce Innovation Needs Program;
 1-20 authorizing a fee.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
 1-23 amended by adding Section 29.922 to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 29.922. TEXAS WORKFORCE INNOVATION NEEDS PROGRAM. (a)

1-25 In this section:

1-26 (1) "Private or independent institution of higher
 1-27 education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

1-28 (2) "Program" means the Texas Workforce Innovation
 1-29 Needs Program.

1-30 (b) The Texas Workforce Innovation Needs Program is
 1-31 established to:

1-32 (1) provide selected school districts, public
 1-33 institutions of higher education, and private or independent
 1-34 institutions of higher education with the opportunity to establish
 1-35 innovative programs designed to prepare students for careers for
 1-36 which there is demand in this state; and

1-37 (2) use the results of those programs to inform the
 1-38 governor, legislature, and commissioner concerning methods for
 1-39 transforming public education and higher education in this state by
 1-40 improving student learning and career preparedness.

1-41 (c) To apply to participate in the program, a school
 1-42 district, public institution of higher education, or private or
 1-43 independent institution of higher education must use the form and
 1-44 apply in the time and manner established by commissioner rule. The
 1-45 application process must require each applicant district or
 1-46 institution of higher education to submit a detailed plan as
 1-47 required by Subsections (d) and (e) of the instruction and
 1-48 accountability the applicant would provide under the program.

1-49 (d) A plan submitted under Subsection (c):

1-50 (1) must:

1-51 (A) be designed to support improved instruction
 1-52 of and learning by students and provide evidence of the accurate
 1-53 assessment of the quality of learning on campus;

1-54 (B) describe any waiver of an applicable
 1-55 prohibition, requirement, or restriction for which the district or
 1-56 institution of higher education intends to apply; and

1-57 (C) include any other information required by
 1-58 commissioner rule; and

1-59 (2) may, if submitted by a school district, designate
 1-60 one or more campuses rather than the entire district to participate
 1-61 in the program.

2-1 (e) In addition to satisfying the requirements under
 2-2 Subsection (d)(1), a plan submitted under Subsection (c) must, to
 2-3 the greatest extent appropriate for the grade or higher education
 2-4 levels served under the program, either:

2-5 (1) focus on engagement of students in
 2-6 competency-based learning as necessary to earn postsecondary
 2-7 credentials, including:

2-8 (A) career and technical certificates;

2-9 (B) associate's degrees;

2-10 (C) bachelor's degrees; and

2-11 (D) graduate degrees; or

2-12 (2) incorporate career and technical courses into dual
 2-13 enrollment courses or into the early college education program
 2-14 under Section 29.908 to provide students the opportunity to earn a
 2-15 career or technical certificate or associate's degree.

2-16 (f) From among the school districts and institutions of
 2-17 higher education that apply as required under this section, the
 2-18 commissioner shall select those school districts and institutions
 2-19 of higher education that present the plans that are most likely to
 2-20 be effective in producing the next generation of higher performing
 2-21 public schools and institutions of higher education that provide
 2-22 education and training in an innovative form and manner to prepare
 2-23 students for careers for which there is demand in this state.

2-24 (g) The commissioner shall convene program leaders
 2-25 periodically to discuss methods to transform learning
 2-26 opportunities for all students, build cross-institution support
 2-27 systems and training, and share best practices tools and processes.

2-28 (h) A school district or institution of higher education
 2-29 participating in the program or the commissioner may, for purposes
 2-30 of this section, accept gifts, grants, or donations from any
 2-31 source, including a private or governmental entity.

2-32 (i) To cover the costs of administering the program, the
 2-33 commissioner may charge a fee to a school district or institution of
 2-34 higher education participating in the program.

2-35 (j) In consultation with interested school districts,
 2-36 institutions of higher education, and other appropriate interested
 2-37 persons, the commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary for
 2-38 purposes of this section.

2-39 (k) Not later than December 1, 2014, and not later than
 2-40 December 1, 2016, with the assistance of school districts and
 2-41 institutions of higher education participating in the program, the
 2-42 commissioner shall submit to the governor and the legislature
 2-43 reports concerning the performance and progress of the program
 2-44 participants. The report submitted not later than December 1,
 2-45 2014, must include any recommendation by the commissioner
 2-46 concerning legislative authorization necessary for the
 2-47 commissioner to waive a prohibition, requirement, or restriction
 2-48 that applies to a program participant and other school district or
 2-49 institution of higher education interested in beginning a similar
 2-50 program. To prepare for implementation of a commissioner waiver,
 2-51 the commissioner shall seek any necessary federal waiver. This
 2-52 subsection expires January 1, 2020.

2-53 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 2-54 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 2-55 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 2-56 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 2-57 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

2-58 * * * * *